

## Remarks

Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of this application as amended. Claims 1, 4, and 7 have been amended. Claim 9 has been cancelled. Claims 11-15 have been added. Therefore, claims 1-8 and 10-15 are presented for examination.

### 35 U.S.C. §102(e) Rejection

Claims 1-6 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by Webber (U.S. Pub No. 2003/0039209). Applicants submit that the present claims are patentable over Webber.

Webber discloses a method for reporting errors in a flow of successive messages containing at least one packet. The method includes detecting a transmission error in a packet and then deferring the reporting of the transmission error. The method processes the deferred transmission error when it receives an acknowledgement pertinent to an immediately preceding message flow. (Webber at page 1, paragraph [0005].)

Claim 1 recites:

A method, comprising:  
receiving a completion packet at a receiving device,  
the completion packet including a completor  
identification;  
determining whether the completion packet received  
from the identified completor is expected by the receiving  
device; and  
discarding the completion packet if the completion  
packet is not expected.

Applicants submit that Webber does not disclose or suggest discarding the completion packet if the completion packet is not expected. The Office Action cites the feature in Webber of terminating a message if a negative acknowledgement is received at a

requestor. (Office Action dated 12/30/04 at page 3, point 2.) However, this is not the same as discarding a completion packet that is not expected. First, the negative acknowledgement of Webber indicates that a responder has *detected a remote error* in a packet transmitted by the requestor. (Webber at page 2, paragraph [0018].) However, a packet with an error is not the same as a packet that is *not expected*. Second, in Webber, the *actual message* related to the negative acknowledgement is terminated. This is not the same as discarding the *completion packet* for the particular message. Therefore, claim 1 is patentable over Webber.

Claims 2, 3, 11, and 12 depend from claim 1 and include additional limitations.

Therefore, claims 2, 3, 11, and 12 are also patentable over Webber.

Claim 4 recites:

A method, comprising:  
receiving a completion packet at a receiving device,  
the completion packet including a completion status and a  
completor identification;  
determining whether the completion packet includes a  
completion status other than successful; and  
storing the completor identification in a first register if  
the completion status is other than successful.

Applicants submit that Webber does not disclose or suggest storing a completor identification in a first register if a completion status is other than successful. The Office Action cites a packet tag (sequence number) in Webber as a completor identification. (Office Action at page 4, point 2.) However, nowhere in Webber is there disclosed storing this packet tag to a register if the completion status is other than successful. In fact, Webber states that a negative completion code is written to a completion queue upon receiving a negative acknowledgement, not the packet tag. (Webber at page 2, paragraph [0020].) Therefore, claim 4 is patentable over Webber.

Claims 5, 6, and 13 depend from claim 4 and include additional limitations.

Therefore, claims 5, 6, and 13 are also patentable over Webber.

### **35 U.S.C. §103(a) Rejection**

Claims 7-10 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Webber (U.S. Pub No. 2003/0039209) in view of Garcia et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,493,343).

Applicants submit that the present claims are patentable over Webber in view of Garcia.

Garcia discloses a system area network that maintains local copies of a sequence number for each data transfer transaction at a requestor and responder nodes. Each data transfer is implemented by the system area network as a sequence of request/response packet pairs. At the requester/responder nodes, the local copy of the sequence number is incremented only if the ordering field in the packet sent or received, respectively, specifies that the packets must be received in the order sent. (Garcia at col. 1, lines 48-60.)

Claim 7 recites:

A method, comprising:

servicing a request packet from a requesting device at a completor device, the request packet including a requestor identification and a tag;

transmitting a completion packet with a completion status other than successful from the completor device to the requesting device if an error condition exists;

storing the requestor identification at a location in the completor device if the error condition exists; and

indicating in a register in the completor device that a completion packet with a completor status other than successful was transmitted if the error condition exists.

As discussed above with respect to claim 4, Webber does not disclose or suggest indicating in a register in the completor device that a completion packet with a completor status other than successful was transmitted if the error condition exists. Nor does Garcia

disclose or suggest such a feature. Therefore, neither Webber nor Garcia, individually or in combination, disclose or suggest the features of claim 7. As a result, claim 7 is patentable over Webber in view of Garcia. Claims 8, 10, 14, and 15 depend from claim 7 and include additional limitations. As such, claims 8, 10, 14, and 15 are also patentable over Webber in view of Garcia.

Applicants respectfully submit that the rejections have been overcome and that the claims are in condition for allowance. Accordingly, applicants respectfully request the rejections be withdrawn and the claims be allowed.

The Examiner is requested to call the undersigned at (303) 740-1980 if there remains any issue with allowance of the case.

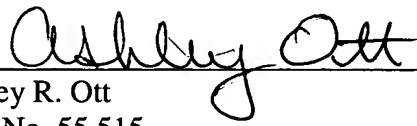
Applicants respectfully petition for an extension of time to respond to the outstanding Office Action pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.136(a) should one be necessary. Please charge our Deposit Account No. 02-2666 to cover the necessary fee under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17(a) for such an extension.

Please charge any shortage to our Deposit Account No. 02-2666.

Respectfully submitted,

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